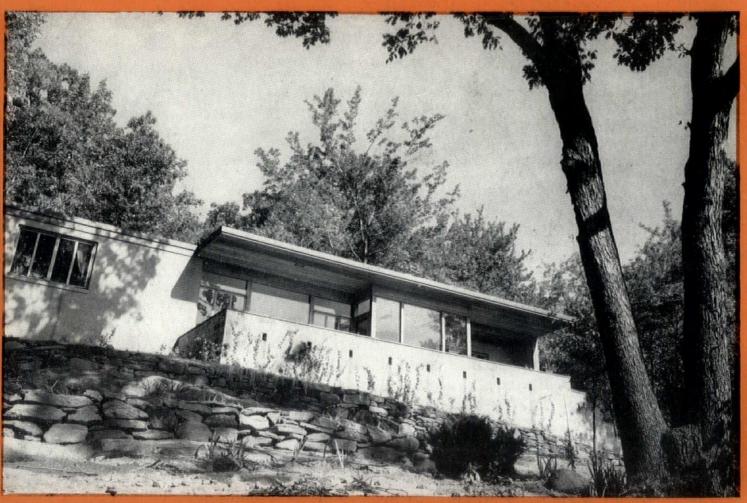
# Empire State AMERICAN 1946 WASHINGTON, D. C.

## ARCHITECT



House in Croton-on-Hudson, N. Y.

NOVEMBER - - - DECEMBER

1946

VOLUME VI - - - - NUMBER VI

THE 1946 CONVENTION

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

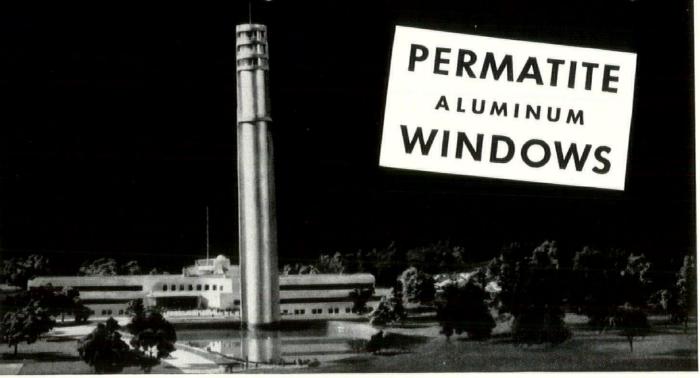
CROTON RESIDENCE WINS AWARD

THE ARCHITECT AND THE BUILDING INDUSTRY

THE ARCHITECT IN SOCIETY

THAT NECESSARY EVIL

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
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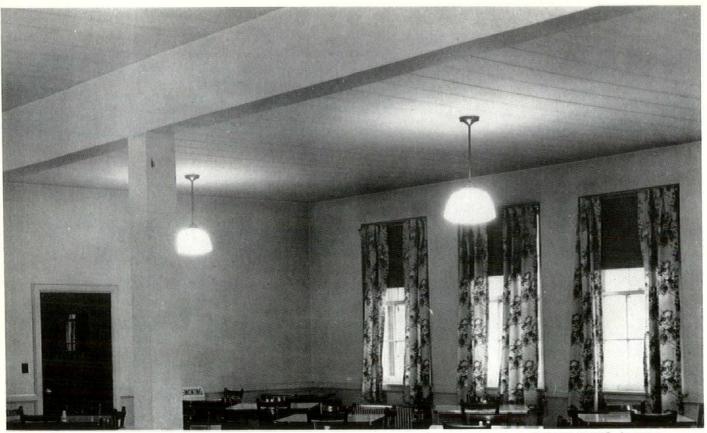
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### THE 1946 CONVENTION

### ARCHITECTS AGAINST A STONE WALL.....

DISCUSSION of problems arising out of the housing and materials shortages highlighted the annual con-



S. M. Arkell

vention of the New York State Association of Architects in Hotel Statler, Buffalo, Oct. 17, 18 and 19. A full schedule of social events, including a luncheon with the Ontario Association of Architects, rounded out the three-day program.

out the three-day program.

Matthew W. Del Gaudio, president of the NYSSA, was unable to attend because of illness and his place as presiding officer was filled by the first vice president, C. Storrs Bar-

rows. A resolution expressing hope of a speedy recovery was sent by the convention to Mr. Del Gaudio. In another resolution, Mr. Barrows was praised for his conduct of the convention.

Mr. Del Gaudio was re-elected president. Other officers chosen were: first vice president, Mr. Barrows; second vice president, George J. Cavalieri; third vice president, Giles Van der Bogert; secretary, Ward Fenner, and treasurer, Maxwell A. Cantor.

Among the speakers were:

James R. Edmunds Jr., president of the A. I. A.; Dean Joseph Hudnut of the Harvard Graduate School of Architecture; Henry S. Churchill, architect and city planner; Ralph Walker of New York; D. Kenneth Sargent, professor

of architecture at Syracuse University; G. Morton Wolfe, president of the Buffalo-Western New York Chapter, A.I.A.; Roger Allen, architect and commentator, Michigan Association of Architects; Walker Lee of Rochester, and Addison Erdman, member of the Board of Architectural Consultants to the Veterans Administration.

Although only 10 percent of the state membership attended the convention, the representation was good, in that all sections of the state were represented.

The business sessions of the convention were held on the top floor of the hotel. Manufacturers' exhibitions were set up in a large room outside the assembly hall. Approximately 40 firms were represented with displays of both new and pre-war products.

In the foyer of the ballroom, which is on the ground floor of the hotel, about 200 photographs, sketches, blueprints and models of all types of architecture were displayed. Reviewing the exhibit, a reporter for the Buffalo Evening News wrote:

"Skyscraper buildings are going out and the emphasis is shifting to lower buildings with fewer floors and more spread-out design . . . Commercial, industrial and institutional buildings will be more streamlined and functional in construction . . . In city planning the thinking is in terms of whole areas instead of individual buildings."

Chief among the resolutions were those on the multipledwelling law, ethics, statewide building code, abolishing certain OPA regulations, and condemnation of the Wyatt housing program.



### REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS

### TREASURER'S REPORT

THE TREASURER'S report, as delivered by Secretary Raymond Irrera, follows:

Receipts	
Albany Chapter	\$ 44.00
Brooklyn Chapter	120.00
Brooklyn Society	122.00
Central New York Chapter	30.00
Long Island Chapter	48.00
New York Chapter	816.00
New York Society	180.00
Rochester Society	70.00
Buffalo Chapter	129.00
Bronx Chapter	46.00
Staten Island Chapter	28.00
Syracuse Society	64.00
Queens Chapter	78.00
Westchester Chapter	300.00
Individual members	70.00
Empire State Architect	440.97
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	\$2,585.97
Expenses	\$2,585.97
Expenses	
Directors' meetings	\$ 117.07
Directors' meetings Legislation	\$ 117.07 389.64
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Directors' meetings. Legislation. Convention Committee. Other committees.	\$ 117.07 389.64 79.45 109.77
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Directors' meetings Legislation Convention Committee Other committees President's expenses Secretary's expenses Treasurer's expenses Empire State Architect American Inst. of Architects	\$ 117.07 389.64 79.45 109.77 81.17 44.45 51.40 246.79 219.00 \$1,338.74 \$1,444.56 2,585.97
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Directors' meetings Legislation Convention Committee Other committees President's expenses Secretary's expenses Treasurer's expenses Empire State Architect American Inst. of Architects  Bank balance, Dec. 7, 1945 Receipts to Oct. 8, 1946	\$ 117.07 389.64 79.45 109.77 81.17 44.45 51.40 246.79 219.00 \$1,338.74 \$1,444.56 2,585.97 \$4,030.53 1,338.74

### LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

THE REPORT of the Legislative Committee was prepared by Maxwell A. Cantor, chairman of the committee, and read by Sidney Strauss. It follows:

"Your Legislative Committee held its first meeting of 1946 on Jan. 23. At this meeting it decided upon the policies to be pursued during the legislative session and authorized its chairman to subscribe to the Legislative Index and to visit Albany whenever necessary, as in the past.

"Numerous later meetings were held to determine our position in relation to bills as they were introduced. These meetings were held in the offices of the New York Society of Architects, to whom we extended our thanks and appreciation for their cooperation in offering us these facilities.

"Many bills were introduced by both parties for the purpose of creating campaign issues in the elections to be held this fall. There were 2437 Senate bills and 2774 Assembly bills. They covered every conceivable subject.

"The ones that engaged our attention were those in connection with housing, multiple dwellings, education, labor, civil service, practice of law, banking, liens, public buildings, tax exemptions, etc. The chairman of your Legislative Committee examined more than 250 bills to determine whether they were favorable or detrimental to the building industry in which the architect has so large a stake.

"A measure which was of great interest to us was an amendment to the Multiple Dwelling law which would have permitted the occupancy of frame dwellings by three families under certain restrictions. This bill was passed by both houses but vetoed by the governor. We believe he made a serious mistake in view of the present housing shortage. We hope that a similar measure will be introduced at the coming session and that it will meet with the governor's approval."



The Convention Banquet THE REPORT of the president, Matthew W. Del Gaudio, was read by C. Storrs Barrows, the first vice president.

The report follows:

"At the beginning of the year, 1946, the architects of the state had reasons to believe that their difficulties were gradually being reduced, in that there was no restriction as to the character of buildings which could be carried on and some materials were available. Since March 26, 1946, however, the two orders, VPH-1 and PR-33, have made it rather difficult for the architect to carry out his work. These two orders, coupled with the scarcity and extraordinary rise in prices of materials, have caused the architect to exercise all his acumen and all his knowledge so that he could serve his client properly and efficiently.

"We are still in the midst of these difficulties and beset by troubles and obstacles on all sides. In spite of all these, however, the architects of the state have progressed, the organization has increased in memberhsip and in influence, and, generally speaking, the profession itself has acquired a greater standing in the state and in various communi-

ties.

"A few references to the work of the various men who

have caused this great improvement are in order.

"Convention Committee—This committee, headed by James W. Kideney, past president, has been working for the last year developing a program for this convention, including cooperation with the Producers' Council of the state, cooperation with the various material dealers and suppliers exhibiting at the convention, cooperation with the architects of the neighboring states, and especially, cooperation with the architects of the Province of Ontario in Canada. The program developed by the committee speaks for itself. It is most complete and well-arranged.

"Publications Committee—One of the objects of the organization, for this past year, has been the revitalizing and rejuvenation of the Empire State Architect. The Publications Committee, headed by Charles Rockwell Ellis as chairman, assisted by David B. Crane, as editor, and George Dick Smith, Jr., as managing editor, and, of course, assisted by Julian Kahle, publisher, has developed into a very interesting and worthwhile publication. By assigning various parts of the work to associate editors, all of whose names appear in the convention issue of the E.S.A., a great deal of interesting subject matter has been received, criticized, screened and published in the E.S.A.

"The Publications Committee has been almost alone in this work, since the requested cooperation by the various members of the organization has not been entirely forthcoming. With the assistance of the membership and with a greater interest displayed by the constituent organizations, the magazine for the next year should be vastly improved and should then become a publication which the architects of the state should be proud to have in their libraries.

"Legislative Committee—One of the important activities of the organization is to protect the architects' interests against adverse legislation which is introduced annually by those who are not particularly friendly to the architects. Mr. Maxwell A. Cantor, chairman of the committee, ably assisted by representatives of constituent organizations, and particularly by James S. Vedder of Syracuse, has done splendid work in having such adverse legislation defeated. It is necessary for the architects of the state to be ever watchful in this respect, as these adverse bills will be introduced again and again. Perhaps it may become necessary for the architects of the state to study the situation very seriously to try to prevent the continuous, perennial introduction of this adverse legislation.

"Treasurer—Through the efforts of our treasurer, Mr. Maxwell A. Cantor, and the assistance of the various con-



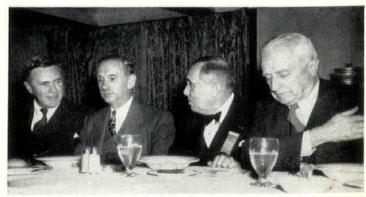
At the Banquet—L. to R. James R. Edmunds, Jr., President, American Institute of Architects; Joseph Hudnut, Dean, Graduate School of Architecture, Harvard University; C. Storrs Barrows, 1st Vice-Pres., New York State Association of Architects; Roger Allen, President, Michigan Society of Architects.

stituents, our treasury is in better condition now than it has been in a long time. It is recommended to the organization that the incoming administration be given sufficient funds so that the president may be able to call upon the various constituents throughtout the state, at least once per year. This has not been possible in the past, because of lack of funds.

"Membership—It is gratifying to note that the membership of the constituents has grown considerably, and that this growth has been made up of active, young, newlygraduated architects whose youth, vigor, and efficiency should bring a great deal of new life and progress to the organization. It is hoped that these young members will be given positions of responsibility in the various constituent organizations and that the New York State Association, itself, will take advantage of the willingness and the ability of these younger men in the work of the various committees.

"Committees—Several of our committees have been doing very fine work, including, but not limited to, the following:

"Public Works Committee—Headed by Ralph Walker, this committee has developed a very friendly feeling with



1946 Convention—L. to R. Kneeland B. Wilkes, President, Buffalo Common Council; Cornelious J. White, N. Y. State Architect; Willis A. Vogel, President, Architects Society of Ohio; Daniel W. Streeter, President Buffalo Chamber of Commerce.

the Public Works Department, and the architects who are now employed in developing projects for the Department of Public Works have expressed their complete satisfaction at the manner in which these operations have been conducted by the department.

"Professional Practice Committee—This committee, headed by Charles C. Platt, has been called upon to settle ques-

(Continued on Page 17)

### CONVENTION SIDELIGHTS

By GEORGE DICK SMITH, JR.

N OTHER years, October 17, 18 and 19 have always been the nicest days of Fall. (Records checked at the Weather Bureau.) That's probably why the Convention Committee chose those days. But this year it was different. It began raining one minute before registration was to begin on the 17th. It rained all that day and all the next. But there really was no reason to leave the hotel because everything a visiting architect needed was right inside—creature comforts, full convention program, good exhibits.

Warsaw Elevator Co. had three pretty girls at its booth. They would have attracted attention even if they had not given away pencils. An Otis Elevator salesman, visiting the Warsaw booth, was impressed.

You perspective artists had better look to your laurels. A "perspective machine," manufactured by Josam Manufacturing Co., is now on the market.

With the exhibits, business meetings, panel discussions, luncheons, bars and restaurants, there were many who did not even know it rained.



S. M. Arket

Roger Allen of Detroit won his listeners with his first few remarks and had them rolling in the aisles for the rest of the evening. His quips were based on things said or people present at the dinner. He is the architect's Robert Benchley.

The various discussions developed a few humorists. Summers of the State Department of Labor told about a booth he once designed for a service station. Its floor area was only

nine square feet but the Labor Laws required two 44-inch exit doors, "remote from each other."

Ralph Walker, discussing some of the reasoning behind the housing program, recalled the Irish M. P. who was "for the bill but against its enactment."

An unidentified listener, who objected to all the housing "emergencies," including the suggestion to declare a na-

tional housing emergency to answer the housing problem, told about a sign in Boston. It had two words: "Had Enough?"

We are up to Saturday now. The sun is shining for a change. Frank Mazurowski, Jim Whitman and John De Forest took down the architectural exhibit. The manufacturers' exhibitors demolished their booths. And the Niagara Falls trip got under way.



At the Convention Banquet—L. to R. Charles B. Sears, former Judge of the Court of Appeals; Tyler S. Rogers, President, The Producers' Council; George A. Newbury, Executive Vice-President, M. & T. Trust Company; Sidney L. Strauss, Director N. Y. State Association of Architects.

First stop was Kleinhans Music Hall, where the architects were escorted on a tour by Mrs. Corey and Stanley Podd, one of the architects who worked on the building. Luncheon with the Ontario Association of Architects took place in Hotel Brock, Niagara Falls, Ont. Speeches were delightful. They were brief.

With Will A. Cannon as host, the visiting architects went to the tower room of the Niagara Falls, Ont., War Memorial for a view of the falls.

The only casualty was Nathan Ginsburg, who missed the bus at Hotel Statler and took a taxi all the way to Niagara Falls. Fare: \$12. But he got there fast, ahead of the buses.

It's all over. We enjoyed every minute of it. I think we owe a vote of thanks to Jim Kideney. He staged a real convention.

### ROTTERDAM ARCHITECT NEEDS HELP OF NYSAA MEMBERS AND ADVERTISERS

When the Japanese overran Bandoeng, Java, Netherlands East Indies, they destroyed all the possessions of the residents of Bandoeng, including the books and magazines on architecture belonging to Pian Drimmalen, a Holland architect, who went out to Java to make it more livable through better buildings. Mr. Drimmalen went back to Holland after being ransacked, but now he wishes to return to Java and help rebuild. He needs books, magazines and pamphlets on architecture and accordingly the New York States Asociation has offered to collect what it can and

send it to him. Please forward any printed material of this nature, which you could give, to David B. Crane, 232 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, N. Y. He will see it gets to Mr. Drimmalen. The Empire State Architect also asks its advertisers and industrial friends if they would please put Mr. Drimmalen on their mailing lists for architectural bulletins: Address—Loan Van Meerdervoort 837, The Hague, Holland. Anyone desiring to read Mr. Drimmalen's moving appeal will find it in the latest issue of the A. I. A. Journal.

### CROTON RESIDENCE WINS SMALL-HOUSE AWARD

THE \$75 prize for the best small-house design submitted to the 1946 convention of the New York State Association of Architects was won by Pomerance & Breines, 1860 Broadway, New York 23, N. Y., for a house they built in Croton-on-Hudson, N. Y. Members of the firm are Ralph Pomerance and Simon Breines.

George Nemeny of New York received an Honorable Mention, while Mentions were received by Daniel Schwartzman of New York, Sebastian Tauriello of Buffalo, and Sargent, Webster, Crenshaw and Folley of Syracuse.

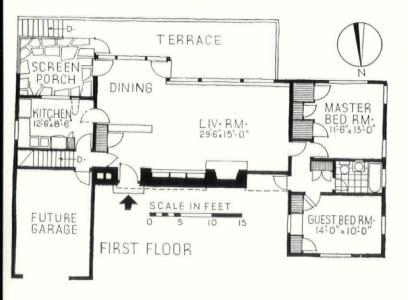
The Croton house, which is pictured on the cover of this issue, is located on a high point, from which it overlooks the Hudson Valley to the south for 20 miles. The structure

rests on rock with a minimum excavation.

The plan of the house is simple and livable, and there are many unusual features in the construction. Drawings reveal an ingenious and direct use of structural mullions along the south wall and also a deep overhang on the south side. The roof holds 1½ inches of water and is ventilated through open joints between slats in the overhang. This, together with cross ventilation through clerestory windows on both sides of the living room, has solved the problem of keeping the house cool in summer.

The basic conception in consideration of site conception and orientation is most noteworthy. Though resorting to a plan type which has been used many times before, the architects have attained a result which is fresh and invigorating, all of which is principally due to the simplicity of

the exteriors and clean cut interior details.



The house will unquestionably age gracefully and will certainly not become "dated" in a short period of time. A sense of spaciousness is obtained by the open plan which combines entry, dining, and living space. Also, the skilful handling of the screen porch in conjunction with the dining space and outside terrace is of merit.

One of the jury questioned the location of the door from the living room to the bedroom wing on the grounds that a successful furniture arrangement about the fireplace would be difficult due to the lack of wall space and because of circulation interference.

Exterior walls are of 8-inch cinder block above grade, though originally they were intended to be of rubble stone and wood frame with cypress sheathing. A saving of ap-

proximately \$1000 was effected by this change.

Ralph Pomerance

There are 4-inch mineralwool batts in the attic floor. Flashing is copper. Windows are of steel; water pipes, of copper; trim, of red cypress; doors, flush panel gumwood; and the heating is warm air. Other pictures and description are contained in the April and August, 1943, issues of The Architectural Forum.

The jury which chose this house at the 1946 NYSAA convention included Prof. Lemuel C. Dillenback of Syracuse, William G. Kaelber of Roch-

Cornell.

Mr. Pomerance received his degree of Bachelor of Architecture at the Carnegie Institute of Technology and is a

ester, and Prof. F. M. Wells of

tecture at the Carnegie Institute of Technology and is a member of the New York Chapter, A. I. A. He was decorated by the King of Sweden for architectural work at the New York World's Fair in 1939. He served with the Air Corps and Corps of Engineers from 1942 to 1945.

Mr. Breines studied architecture at Pratt Institute,

Simon Breines
of Bachelor of Architecture

which awarded him the degree of Bachelor of Architecture. He also is a member of the New York Chapter of the A. I. A. He was a Brunner scholar in 1945 and is the co-author of

Book of Houses, published this year.

Their firm was organized in 1936 and has done varied work. Several residences were designed with water-cooled roofs and radiant-heated ceilings, which characterize the Croton-on-Hudson house. Among current work of the firm is the Insular Government Center at San Juan, Puerto Rico, and the Harlem Hospital for the City of New York.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

<sup>&</sup>quot;Nothing great ever was achieved without enthusiasm."

### THE ARCHITECT and THE BUILDING INDUSTRY

(This speech was delivered by James R. Edmunds, Jr., president of the American Institute of Architects, at the convention of the New York State Association of Architects.)

ARCHITECTURE is not in a healthy state. True we are all swamped with work but how much of all this work is under construction or even likely to be in the near future?

This condition of affairs cannot go on indefinitely. Our clients will not much longer continue to employ our services for the design of projects which they are not permitted to build. This is to warn you, if you need warning, that our present happy state of "full employment" is nearing its end unless something is done about the condition in which the construction industry finds itself.



We in the design professions have but recently become fully conscious of our position in the construction industry, and of the industry's important place in our national economy. We have but more recently recognized our responsibility therein and made some effort to shoulder it. This has been done through the Construction Industry Advisory Council set up by the United States Chamber of Commerce. On the Council are represented all phases of the construction industry: labor, general contractors, subcontractors, manufacturers and distributors of construction materials, real estate boards, operational builders, the lending agencies and the design professions—the ASCE, the ASME and the AIA.

Much of what I have to say now represents the collective thinking of all of these phases of the industry, which under present conditions is presented with so many vexing problems. We must act in unison if they are to be solved. Architects are numerically weak but by engaging the help of the entire industry can be potentially strong.

We have a right to be heard when we speak to those who have been delegated authority by the Executive to restrict procedure in our industry, ostensibly for the purpose of quickly producing homes to meet the existing critical shortage.

The restrictive order of Mr. Wilson Wyatt, issued with the power of the Executive under the Second War Powers Act, contains many features with which the construction industry does not see eye to eye.

It is that industry which must build the nation's homes, including new homes for our veterans. We in that industry are just as anxious as any to see them built in the shortest possible time.

We recognize that the responsibility for providing these rests in large part on our shoulders. Also that we can *not* build the maximum number until the present obstacles to building have been removed.

We have opposed some of the plans proposed by the Federal Government in connection with the home building program; but that opposition on our part was a sincere effort to prevent conditions and controls which in our considered opinion would hold back veteran's home building, rather than expedite it.

Through the Construction Industry Advisory Council we did speak our mind to Mr. Wyatt and his cohorts, but as we say at home, "He paid us no mind." Even at the risk of being thought an "I told you so" I should like to point out that our prior criticism of Wyatt's complex scheme has been amply justified by later experience. He has tried everything except the single most important step leading to recovery of construction's ability to produce—abolition of the OPA.

This lies within his power in so far as it controls prices of building products. For reasons of his own he has consistently refused. OPA said it could control prices; subsequent experience shows that it cannot.

Until the strangle hold of OPA is removed there can be no real volume of construction.

Since this bureaucratic dictator will not "see the light" and is seemingly guided more by political expediency than sound economics, the only course left open is to appeal to a higher power. Not the Chief Executive, not the Congress, but to those who are responsible for their being in office.

Where does Government get its power to control? From the people. What then is the most important job that faces you? To inform the people, get them to support policies which will permit you to do your job of rebuilding America.

I realize this is a "large order" and hard to fill. It is a public relations job of great magnitude and difficulty. Nevertheless, it behooves our industry to undertake it and it behooves us as architects to assume our share of the work, or more, if need be.

Enough of Wyatt and OPA. (I'm as tired of 'em as you are.)

**B**ut great as would be the relief resulting from the death of OPA, this will not cure all of our ills. We have still others and just as serious troubles, of which by far the most critical is that of construction cost.

The cost of building has risen greatly in many communities, as compared with pre-war levels, and I find no one who is not alarmed by that fact. The cold truth is that it has risen more than the cost of most other goods and commodities with which this industry must compete for the buyer's dollar.

True, individual incomes have risen sharply as a result of wage increases and record employment, but that does not enable us to sit back and do nothing. Building costs must come down. Otherwise we face a drastic reduction in the demand for construction. Call it a buyer's strike or what you will, the fact remains that the construction industry cannot hope for prosperity if it must continue to operate at today's costs.

This problem is one that demands the cooperation and close attention of everyone concerned with building. And I mean everyone, including labor.

Fortunately, there is reason to expect that some factors currently contributing to the high cost of building may disappear before long. The black market, for example, is adding 15 percent and more to the cost of many structures being erected today. We can assume that it will disappear when the supplyof building materials becomes large enough to meet the demand, although I hazard no prediction as to when that happy day will arrive.

Before talking further about how to reduce costs, I should like to ask the question—why have they increased so greatly? Why has the cost of building jumped 60 percent or more in some localities?

Is it because manufacturers of building products are making fabulous profits? No, they earn no more, by and large, than they did before the war, and some are making no profits. Is it because financing charges have increased? No, interest rates are well below prewar levels. Is it because architects and engineers are making excessive fees? No, they are still doing business at the same old rates. Is it because material dealers are getting rich at the expense of the builder and owner of new construction? That cannot be the answer, when most dealers have little or nothing to sell and operate under OPA ceilings which limit their mark-ups.

No, the cause of higher building costs lies elsewhere and I think we should place it where it belongs. This is at the door of labor and at the door of the Federal Government. With full realization that I am entering upon controversial ground, I wish to state that a full 90 per cent—and this is conservative—a full 90 percent of the increased cost of building is attributable to labor and government.

Government has contributed to our higher costs through higher taxes and ill-advised and inept efforts to control the economy and the construction industry, which have reduced material production and encouraged work stoppages. Unemployment Compensation, theoretically of high purpose, has been disgracefully abused.

Labor has contributed the greater share of the increased cost through higher wage levels all along the line, and what is far worse, through its own reduced productivity, and through strikes in the building and related industries.

I do not refer alone to the wages paid on the building site. Those are not the only wage increases which affect cost. We must take into account also the higher wages being paid in the production of raw materials and supplies used in the manufacture of building materials and equipment.

Thus, the nation's labor force, which so eagerly awaits new homes, is primarily responsible for the high cost of providing those homes. That is an inescapable fact, and it's high time they knew it.

Let me make it plain that I am in no sense objecting to or criticising the higher wage rates labor is receiving today. I could wish they be twice as high if each dollar of wages would buy twice as much. But you and I know, and some few enlightened labor leaders also know, that labor can not simultaneously receive higher wages and deliver less effort on the job.

Delayed arrival of materials on the job results in temporary idleness. It is also true that labor is delivering less work per hour when materials are available.

Labor, which is enjoying unprecedented wages in manufacturing and building, can maintain those rates and enjoy reasonably steady year-round employment for all in its ranks only by restoring its work output to prewar levels

and then going on to step up its productivity still further.

If that does not come about, labor itself will be the chief victim of its own shortsightedness. Not only will it be unable to obtain homes at reasonable prices, it also will bring about a reduction in building volume which will mean widespread unemployment in the building trades and elsewhere.

Some way must be found of convincing labor that greater work output per man-hour and the use of labor saving methods and equipment will work to the benefit of labor in terms of greater total annual income and steadier employment over the years. As a case in point there is the painters' abhorence of the spray gun, which in many instances will do a finer job in less time and with less material than can be done with a brush.

No one in the building industry contends, however, that opportunities to reduce building costs are confined to the field of labor. There is much that all of us can do. The architect must concentrate on reasonable economy to a greater extent than ever before. It will be necessary to eliminate some luxuries in building while costs remain high, although there must be no let down in the underlying quality of construction.

Already there has been too great a let down in quality, especially in housing, because of shortages. Nails are scarce and expensive so fewer nails are used per house. We see green lumber and make-shift substitutes that greatly impair the quality of the all too few homes we are able to complete for our veterans.

Furthermore, it is high time we went beyond the talking stage with respect to modernization of building codes, elimination of restrictive practices other than those of labor and research. The amazing progress which has been made in the adoption of dimensional coordination should serve to stimulate our efforts in other directions. Five years ago, dimensional coordination was little more than a dream. Today, through the effort of the Bemis Industries Inc., the Producers' Council and the American Institute of Architects, coordinated dimensions are a reality, partly because the wartime lull gave more time to work out the details and change over manufacturing processes, but mostly because we finally got down to work. We can make the same headway on these other problems, if we decide to come to grips with them.

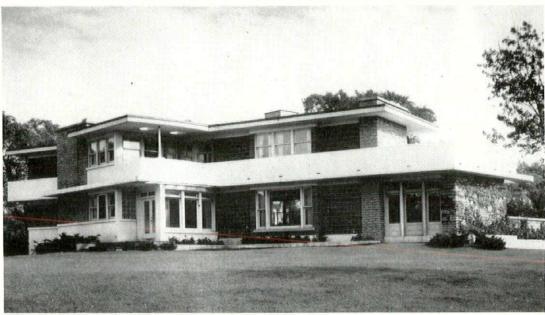
Progress is being made on building codes but even with the support of several influential governmental agencies, this is but little more than a good start. If each of us in his own community would lend his support to code revision, we could get somewhere. The lack of progress in research is exceedingly disappointing. Great opportunities for reducing costs lie before us in the development of new methods of using materials in combination, but the facilities for coordinated research so far are entirely lacking. Those who object most vociferously to governmental encroachment in this field might well come forward with an adequate substitute in the form of a privately sponsored research program. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is developing a plan which will offer this opportunity. If we wait too long, government is likely to step in and take over one more segment of private enterprise.

But if we devote to the problem of cost reduction and to constructive planning the same zeal and energy that we spend attacking those who seek to impede and encompass us, we will astound even ourselves by our accomplishment, not alone in the interest of our own profession or that of our great industry, but in that of the public common good.

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OR

### THE ARCHITECT IN SOCIETY

Address by Joseph Hudnut at the Annual Convention of the New York Society of Architects in Buffalo, New York, October 18, 1946

A RISTOTLE in one of his most quoted passages, defines man as a political animal. Aristotle thus brought man down from the realm of the eternal and the ideal where the earlier philosophers had placed him and gave him a home in nature. Man is an animal. An animal, and yet set apart and above all other animals: a *political* animal.

Those animals who are by nature defenseless in isolation live together in groups. Buffalo live in herds, birds in flocks, bees and ants in swarms—and men in cities. Until our own day, when science has arrested or perverted so many of nature's laws, such animals could not otherwise have survived.

Among those who thus lived in groups, only one seems to have exhibited the political aptitudes; only one developed



S. M. Arkell

a society; only one invented family and government, property, war, and grand hotel, morality, law and the C. I. O. Whether these aptitudes are the cause or consequence of our civilization need not be debated here; the judgment of Aristotle remains; he who lives outside a society is either above humanity or below it.

Aristotle did not tell us whether or not man is willingly a political animal. Did we form political associations by desire or by the compulsion of circumstances? Did we accept with joy the responsibilities and burdens of the collective life, adjusting our lives freely to the necessities and preferences of our neighbors, working with a light heart on eternal assembly lines in order that we might do those things which can only be done together? Are these the free exercises of a native bent for social organization and cooperative activity? Are they not rather confinements from which man, natural anarchist and lone adventurer, would if he could gladly escape? The forest calls us and the wide sea; the farm teases us with the offer of a solitary and absolute crown; and the face of war is made beautiful by promises of freedom from our civic chains. We are, it would appear, citizens by necessity: open the gate and we fly, like birds from their cages, into the free blue heavens of our imaginings.

Among these heavens there is one of which I wish to speak specifically: that very private heaven called *architecture*.

There is a castle girdled round with mighty towers of convention and precedent, impregnable of orthodox canon and erudite taboo, wherein there is fortified a profession determined to maintain the rituals of its secret gods against the erosive siege of an insensitive society. There the architect lives amid the mutual admiration and applause of his fellows, unmindful of that obscurity which the great walls throw over him. From the high ramparts he hears the clash and thunder of the armies which struggle for economic and political control; he sees the chaos which mechanized industry has brought into our contemporary world, the deadening mechanizations, the dreary standardizations;

he watches the impoverishment of the spiritual life and the disappearance of that shared tradition which identified our art with the thought and experience of our nation; and from these he turns to debate the relative morality of classical columns and corner windows, the aesthetic satisfactions specific to colonial brick or steel construction, the appropriateness of thatched roofs or giant cantilevers for the expression of domestic felicity. Because our declining culture is alienated from the general culture, because our art is not competent to express the emotions which occupy the hearts of the people, we have invented for ourselves an art of expression which is expressive only to ourselves. We have shut ourselves up, not in an ivory tower, but in a tight and turbulent little arena peculiar to architecture where, amid hurricanes of argument, we create our own values of acceptance and rejection.

Now it must be understood that I am not speaking of architecture as a technology or of architecture as a business. Our participation in the onward march of invention is alert and realistic; our methods of accounting, of bookkeeping, of hiring and firing—and, I may add, of hooking and netting a client—are exceedingly up to date. I am thinking of architecture as an art of expression. Especially I am thinking of that power of architecture, once the source of its eloquence and beauty, to capture and guard the emotional values which pertain to the collective life of men and by so doing give dignity and grace and meaning to human environment.

It seems to me that architecture in our time has abdicated thus its rightful authority. We are segregated, like birds in a gilded aviary, behind screens of romance, learning and philosophic argument.

The world hears behind that screen the echoes of our shrill and unintelligible quarrels, advertising to mankind the importance of our aesthetic preferences—and the world gives its patronage and its opportunities to the engineer, the realtor, the speculative builder, and the Ladies Home Journal. I think that our art will recover neither its dignity nor its sovereignty until we break through that screen, even at the cost of our most cherished superstitions. We must practice our political art on a political stage.

I can well remember the day in which the secret gate of that enchanted castle, architecture, was first opened to me. I must confess that I entered that gate by accident; but, once inside, it possessed me completely. I remember five long, beautiful years, at Harvard and at Ann Arbor, when the vexations of the world were put aside for magnificent adventures with double elephants and the little cakes made by Messrs. Windsor and Newton. I remember the subtle, exciting shadows cast by my Corinthian capitals, my skies tremulous with light under twelve washes of ultramarine, my museum designed for the rich old gentleman who "found himself in possession of four classic columns," the sparkle of my crisp black poché against the mystifications of entourage and mosaic—and I remember my rapturous joy on that day when my analytique, Doric and Athenian, triumphed over Princeton, represented by the Ionic of the Branchidae. That was architecture—and we never doubted that in the waiting world, nebulously surrounding Robinson Hall, we should some day continue these, its cabalistic ecstasies.

The trouble is that we did continue them. The walls (Continued on Next Page)

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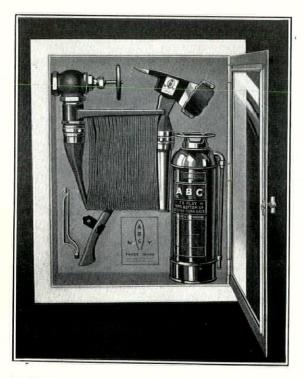
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### THE ARCHITECT IN SOCIETY

(Continued from Previous Page) of our comfortable citadel held fast; bankers and railroad owners and captains of industry in inexhaustible supply assured us the means of existence in return for the treasures of our libraries; and it did not seem important to us that ninety-five per cent of the nation was unaware that such treasures had been mined. There are many architects who

await the return of those happy days.

Something has been gained now that we have exchanged the peristyle and the dome for flat roofs, unshadowed walls and the materials of mechanized production. Certainly this new Spartan diet has removed some encumbering fat from the bones of our educational processes and, not without sacrifices, turned the minds of students and practitioners towards the compensations afforded by exciting new techniques of construction and planning. Nevertheless, the habit of thought—taking our profession as a whole —is little changed. We have a new academy, a new arsenal of aesthetic effects—the effects of thin walls hung on iron frames, of compositions in volumes rather than in mass, of the precision and definition of metallic structure—but these seduce us with that same insouciant magic which was once the exclusive attribute of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. These weigh as heavily in our judgments of architecture—and of life. Our resourcefulness and skill in the exploitation of our new techniques-our invention and daring in the use of cantilevers, walls of glass, and synthetic materials-form the new criteria by which we assess our own accomplishment and that of our colleagues.

Thus it happens that we often find it more importantand more pleasant—to disagree over museums designed in the shape of spirals and over skyscrapers in the form of zigarats than to discuss the crises in labor and production which are shattering the economic bases of our profession. Thus it happens that little Cape Cod cottages sometimes excite us more than big atomic bombs, and innocent Lally columns distress us more acutely than the collapse of that great prop of confidence which upheld the authority of the Supreme Court. Thus it happens that, against the confusion of a world falling into pieces, we have shut the

esoteric gates of our impregnable stronghold.

Now I should take no exception to these standards, valuations and disputes—and indeed I have myself thrown too many stones into this puddle to cavil at those who wish to prolong the tempest—if it appeared that these might indeed lead to a new architecture. No such denouement is probable. Architectures are not founded upon academies, old or new. Architectures are not the inventions of aesthetes. Architectures grow out of experiences with life and out of the understanding and feeling which such experiences engender. They grow out of the encounter of architects with realities.

We must live in the present world. We must believe in the present world; accept it; give ourselves to it; and find the means of making ourselves indispensable to it. Only so shall our experience of that world be immediate and deep, only so shall we servant and instrument to its grandeur and

its beauty.

There is something preposterous about an architect who condemns his era; who advertises his art with philippics against the characteristic shapes of that era; who rails against the skyscraper, the factory, baseball, mechanized traffic; who recommends an escape into the Middle Ages or into the vegetative felicities of a rural existence; and who yet professes himself a modern architect. The Middle Ages are for preachers; Arcadias for poets; and theories of design are for the professors who invented them.

To be modern, an architect must be a participant in modernity. He must apprehend the institutions which he

(Continued on Page 16)

### THAT NECESSARY EVIL-THE ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEER

By THOMAS H. McKAIG

WHEN one is confronted with the task of preparing a periodic article of this kind, after having carried on for over fifteen years, one grasps at any subject matter which presents itself, with the hope that there may be something of interest to those to whom these lines may come. This month the American Institute of Steel Construction had provided this subject matter in the 1946 edition of the Specification for the Design, Fabrication and Erection of Structural Steel for Buildings.

This new specification has not changed the basic steel stress from the 20,000 pound unit stress to which we have become accustomed, but it has made a number of radical changes in the thinking behind the design. For example, it starts with a recognition of three basic types of design, -rigid frame or restrained frame, conventional or simplethe type of design we are used to—and semi-rigid or partially restrained. By the code, the first two systems are approved unconditionally and the third with reservations. Of course, most city codes will lag behind in recognition of this new basic thinking, but we will gradually get away more and more from the old conventional steel construc-

A radical change in thinking is indicated in the acceptance and recognition of the so-called "Theory of Limit Design" as an approach to the design of continuous beams and rigid frames. Under some conditions of negative moment, this allows an increase in allowable stress adjacent to supports.

The new code goes into the subject of welding much more directly and thoroughly than any preceding code.

This is as it should be. Regardless of the few failures of welding to which its opponents can point, the fact remains that welding is here to stay and to make itself more and more a part of our normal construction operations. The thing for us to do is to learn its limitations and how best to use this tool, which after these war years has ceased to be a new tool.

Under the heading of loads and stresses, the code sets up definite percentages for impact loads, covering not only elevator supports, crane loads and machinery, but also "for threaded hanger rods supporting floors and balconies,—33 % percent." However, in connection with this last item, the allowable unit stress is raised from 13,500 in the old code to 20,000 in the new code; so that even with the allowance for impact, the size requirement will be less than the old code.

The new code sets maximum depth ratios of 1/24 of the span for floor beams and girders, (1/20 for beams subject to vibration or shock). This means a 12" beam on a maximum span of 24 feet unless stresses are reduced proportionately. For roofs, this ratio may be made 1/30. As a matter of fact, these ratios are merely a simplification of ordinary deflection precautions, and if you have been used to following normal design methods for construction, you will find that these new requirements do not cramp your style.

The entire code is an important step forward in recognition of modern methods of design and construction. In case you are interested, also, the new A. I. S. C. Handbook containing the new beam sections and the tables based on the new A. I. S. C. Code will be off the press soon.



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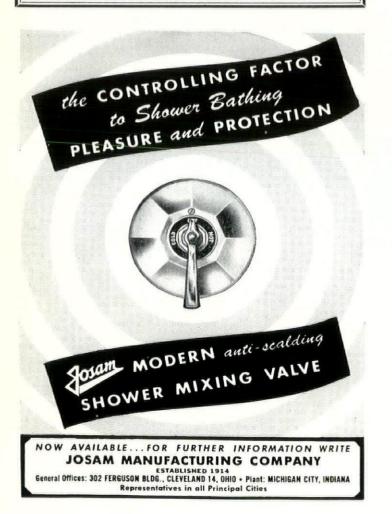
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### THE ARCHITECT IN SOCIETY

(Continued from Page 14)

shelters—the school, the home, the market, the factory not as pegs upon which to drape his patterns of space and structure, but as ideas to be made visible in his constructed forms. He must care about these institutions, know their relationships to that collective welfare to which they are addressed. Buildings are not modern because they are dressed in modern clothing or because they conform to a modern theory, but because of those adaptations of form which fit them for a modern serviceability.

It is in that way only that our buildings will progress are progressing—towards a contemporary expression. The school house breaks through its box-like classical walls not because these are illogical to steel construction or unpleasing to sensibilities disciplined by the Architectural Forum, but because classical walls embarrass the social science of teaching. The dwelling breaks the prim colonial mould and opens its walls to sunshine not because M. Le Corbusier discovered the beauty of plate glass and Mr. Wright the euphonies of flowing space but because these changes are imperative to a new freedom and candour in family life. So the ancient sanctuaries of religion gather around them the unromantic facilities for social service; so the court house and the capitol overthrow their monumental domes; and the giant factories slowly recognize the humanity which they shelter beside their machines.

These are live creatures and submit impatiently to our imprisonment. They are growing creatures, struggling to free themselves from the tyrannies of custom. They grow with the institutions they shelter which push outward against their walls no less vehemently than they push against the confinements of their traditions. Institution and architecture change together. They change with the varying phases of a warfare between the liberating principle of progress and the conserving principle of law and convention: with that universal warfare which is the central drama of our time. All humanity is arrayed on that field, and there the architect, too, must be enlisted.

Architecture surpasses engineering in one respect only: it takes into account not only the facts which lie on the surface of life but includes also a harmony of these with the secrets of their occurrences. One of the urgent tasks of architecture is to resolve those deep misgivings which are in part created by engineering: to reaffirm the insufficiency of material devices to sustain the happiness of mankind. That is why architecture cannot be created by calculation. We have torn from our buildings the heavy incrustations, the pale copy-book sentiments; we have revealed the life-giving structural line; but before there is an architecture our buildings must be made to exhibit also those progressions of the human spirit which are the deeper content of our civilization.

The avenue for these progressions lies close at hand in the social serviceability of architecture. I mean by this not merely that buildings should be planned for the wellbeing of those who are to live in them; I have in mind the broader conception of buildings as elements in a human environment capable of assisting the good life of society as a whole; buildings conformable, not to new techniques or aesthetic preferences only, but to that fervent and generous impulse which seeks to overcome the confusions and inadequacies of our time with new patterns of social relationship and conduct.

We know how that impulse is creating a new art of city planning. It must create also a new art of architecture. Not only our cities—the streets and open spaces, the recreational areas, the housing, the distribution of industries are to be reappraised and made conformable to a new way of envisaging life, but also the patterns of our institutions and of the buildings which shelter them. These also are elements in the planned city. These also are to be re-

shaped by the operation of a social ideal.

That ideal is not irrelevant to architectural excellence. We must not think of city planning as a technology merely or as a complex of technologies. Although it rises out of scientific thought, although it is reasoned, documented, fitted to the commonplaces of every-day living, yet it takes possession of us as vision and desire. It is at once the consequence of the physical energy and invention of our era and of that religious prompting, called democracy, which has slowly given these direction and meaning. Our technologies and our faith meet here. Upon such foundations were built the great traditions of architecture.

### REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS

(Continued from Page 7)

tions of professional ethics and has disposed of cases with great celerity and complete satisfaction to all concerned.

"Committee on Safety—Headed by Prof. D. Kenneth Sargent, this committee has studied the elimination of hazards in the home and the committee's recommendations should be followed by the architects in their planning, to the end that accidents in the homes may be reduced con-

siderably, or eliminated entirely.

"IN conclusion, the future holds great promise for the architectural profession in spite of the difficulties besetting us. We will have new problems to meet, new materials to use, and new use of old materials. It becomes extremely necessary for us to spend time in study and research. This we must do if we are to fulfill our obligations to ourselves and to our clients."

### RESOLUTIONS

CONDENSED reports of resolutions passed by the convention follow. (Resolutions must be passed by the

board before becoming effective.)

- 1. Because of the materials shortage, the Board of Directors was requested to prepare, for submission to the Legislature, amendments to the Multiple Dwelling Law which would permit the conversion of any building to a multiple dwelling in compliance with Article 6, permit the ventilation of bath rooms in any multiple dwelling erected prior to Jan. 1, 1940, by ducts as provided for in Article 6, permit conversion of frame buildings to allow not more than two families on any floor in a two-story building and not more than one family on any floor in a three-story building, and set up a Board of Review with authority to grant variations of the law, with no authority to grant variations with respect to the height or bulk of building as is now provided for in said law.
- 2. The convention recommended changes in Section 1476 of the State Education Law which would require arch-



itectural corporations to register annually, would not require that exemptions to the law apply in cities of 800,000 or more, and would construe as one building or structure a group of buildings or structures erected or altered under the same ownership.

3. A code of ethics to apply to New York State architects is to be drawn up by a special committee, which will report its verdict to the Board of

Directors for action.

4. The convention endorsed the principle of a state-wide building code which would set minimum standards for (Continued on Page 18)

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### REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS

(Continued from Page 17)

architects but which would not prevent localities from making rules of their own so long as those rules were equally strong or stronger than the state code.

5. A recommendation was sent to the governor and to other officials in Albany to the effect that the Labor Law and the Industrial Code be consolidated, revised, and recoded.

6. The New York State Association of Architects was authorized by the convention to appoint a committee to make a study of basic school design, of materials for school buildings, and of educational requirements in order that architects may have the latest information covering economy of design and construction of schools.

7. The convention conveyed to the governor and other state officials expressions of appreciation for the cooperation shown architects by state officials.

8. A message of sympathy and of hope for a quick return to good health was sent by the convention to Matthew W. Del Gaudio.

9. The president was empowered to appoint a standing committee on safety in design to cooperate with the New York State Health Department in its campaign to reduce accidents in the home.

10. After a spirited discussion in which the government was vigorously criticized by many speakers for its housing program, the convention passed a resolution urging the removal of OPA ceilings on building materials and on rents of new or altered buildings, urging a lifting of ceilings of incomes for veterans in on-the-job training programs, and condemning the so-called Wyatt housing program as a "failure."

11. Because "utilitarian functions obscure the idealistic purpose of war memorials," the convention urged that memorials be designed to reflect the memory of war heroes and to make such utilitarian functions as parade grounds, fountains, gardens or assembly areas secondary to the memorial.

12. The convention's exhibitors were thanked for their "splendid work" in setting up the displays outside the meeting room.

13. The convention urged that violations of the Education Laws applying to architecture be prosecuted by district attorneys as well as state and city attorneys in order that smaller communities will have access to this type of prosecution.

14. The convention endorsed a plan whereby the New York State Association of Architects would have the right to recommend appointees to the state board which examines architects applying for licenses.

15. The Board of Directors was authorized to appoint a special committee, preferably with men from the Albany area, to confer with the State Labor Department on revision of the Labor Laws affecting architecture.

16. Officers of the New York State Association of Architects were instructed to confer with the governor in an attempt to revise the method of computing architects' fees on public projects, present fees being based on 1940 instead of 1946 estimates.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Constituent Editor Tucker's intoxicating column has us possessed as always, is postponed until next issue for editorial reasons.



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